

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Vice Chair Koslowski, Duane Pierce, Delores Pierce, Joe Witkowski, Louise Dahlke, Jerry Polus, Jim Haskins, Matthew Franklin, Cathy Williquette, Linda Pera

EXCUSED: Bernie Erickson

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1778**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ed Koslowski at 4:30 pm.

2. Invocation.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of soldiers who have lost their lives in the last month.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of October 18, 2016.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Louise Dahlke to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At this time Jerry Polus introduced new staff member Matthew Franklin. Franklin joined the staff in the Veterans' Office and will be working on all benefits. He came from Montana where he worked in veterans' services and has hit the floor running and is doing a great job.

5. Budget Status Financial Report for September, 2016.

This item was deferred until the December, 2017 meeting.

6. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

Register of Deeds Cathy Williquette informed this will be the last meeting she attends as she will be retiring. She introduced Linda Pera to the group and indicated that Linda has been helping with the Honor Rewards program and will be taking care of the program for the Register of Deeds office. Williquette also informed that Register of Deeds staff attended the Veterans' Breakfast to sign veterans up for the program. She asked if the group would like a representative of the Register of Deeds Office to attend each meeting or if information about the program should flow through Polus's office instead. Polus responded that he would share information with the group if he received it from the Register of Deeds.

Williquette continued that there are currently four counties in the state that participate in the program as well as several other counties working on it. In Brown County there are currently 80 businesses signed up and 211 requests for cards have been made, however, a small number were rejected due to residency and they are still waiting for verification on several others.

Louise Dahlke asked about verification of the DD214 forms if someone signs up online. Williquette explained the process and said that when someone signs up her office looks for a DD214 which should be filed with the Register of Deeds. If they are unable to find a recorded DD214, they forward the request to Polus who uses various means to verify the person. If they are unable to verify the DD214, the membership is denied, however, both Williquette and Polus assured that they do whatever they possibly can to verify the military service. Williquette also reminded that veterans can provide other forms of military ID to get their discount.

7. Update re: 2017 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

Haskins informed that Laura Nehlsen who has sung the National Anthem in the past no longer has time to make the commitment. He has recruited the lead singer for the band, Big and Tasty, Holly Larson, to sing the National Anthem at next year's Appreciation Day event. With regard to entertainment, Polus said he will be contacting both the Air Force Band and the Navy Band to see if either is available to perform at the event. Franklin said that he may have a connection for the Presidents Own Marine Band and he can check into that as well.

Dahlke informed the Fair Association has been contacted by a group of veterans who would like to bring in two Huey helicopters at no cost. They would like the helicopters there all day for viewing and they will give rides at a cost of about \$100 each. These veterans can only be at the Fair on Sunday and Dahlke asked for feedback of the Subcommittee regarding moving the Veterans' Appreciation Day event to Sunday rather than Saturday. She noted that this is the early planning stages and she will keep the group informed. The group discussed the pros and cons of moving the Appreciation Day event to Sunday and the consensus was that this would be agreeable. Dahlke will continue to keep the group updated on this.

The tickets for the Fair were also discussed, in particular going to an electronic ticket system. Dahlke said that electronic tickets were tried this year and it went over well. She said they will go with electronic tickets next year and she will ask if there is a way to do the veterans tickets online as well. Koslowski suggested that if the tickets are electronic, veterans should be required to show a military ID at the gate to verify their veteran status. He noted that over 600 tickets were distributed this year but only 124 raffle tickets were handed out.

8. Possible update re: Veterans Day events.

Haskins said he was at the VFW event and there was a good turnout, but people did ask about prizes. Next year he will solicit prizes himself. He also said that Julie's Café was not included in the newspaper article and they were not happy about it and he also noted there were several other businesses that he typically talked to about discounts that were not in the article. Haskins said next year he will go to talk to the businesses in person and apologize for not being included in this year's article. Koslowski explained that he used the best list he had available and sent a postcard to all of the businesses on the list asking if they were offering discounts this year. If the businesses did not return the postcards, they were not included. Koslowski said he will print up the same cards next year and Haskins can hand deliver them and explain how to fill them out and send them back so everyone is included in the newspaper article. Haskins said the list of offers and events that was distributed at the VFW went over well and was a good idea. Koslowski said he will look at improving the master list of businesses that provide offers for next year's event.

9. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

CVSO Jerry Polus informed that he just received confirmation that a wheelchair accessible van has been ordered through the DAV to provide disabled veterans with transportation to appointments, both to the VA as well as to personal appointments. This van was made possible through a local, county and state coordination with federal grant money and Brown County supported the portion the DAV would have to pay of about \$7000. The van should be here in a few months and will be a big benefit to those who have had to hire drivers in the past to transport them to their appointments.

10. Comments from Carl Soderberg.

Soderberg was unable to attend the meeting and therefore there was no report.

11. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).

-Dahlke did not have anything to add other than what was discussed regarding the Fair earlier in the meeting.

-Haskins shared a book of letters that were written to him by the children at the child care center he works at. He appreciated this very much and said he was touched.

-Koslowski mentioned the display at Associated Bank on Cardinal Lane and said that he will be taking it down next week if anyone would like to help. He also reminded the group that the next meeting of this Subcommittee will take place at the airport.

-Pierce asked for an additional moment of silence in memory Mark "Wizard" Tilkens who died on November 2 and was the original Chapter President of Rolling Thunder, Chapter 3.

-Witkowski brought a copy of the Veterans Day article from the newspaper. He also shared an article from the AARP magazine that listed a number of restaurants who provide deals to veterans all year long. He also talked about an article about a free service from the National Council of Aging that connects people 55 and over with programs that help pay for medications, food, utilities and housing. More information can be found at benefitscheckup.org.

12. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.

13. Adjourn.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:29 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary